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VIDELA RETURNS TO BUENOS AIRES FROM BOLIVIA

PY252307Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2205 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Oct (TELAM)--The nation's president, Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla (Ret), returned to this capital city after his meeting with the president of Bolivia in that country. He arrived at 1851 (local time).

OFFICIAL DENIES BORDER TALKS TO BE EXTENDED

PY251435Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1250 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Oct (TELAM)--Gen Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo (ret), president of the Argentine delegation to Commission No 2 discussing the border conflict between our country and Chile, today referred to reports that the deadline of the negotiations may be extended. He said he does not know the basis of this report, because there is complete agreement that the negotiations will end without fail on 2 November when the 180 days end. Therefore, there has been no change.

The head of the Argentine delegation made these remarks to a local radio station from Santiago, Chile, where the eighth round of negotiations is being held. He said that the last stage of negotiations is taking place and progressing normally. He added: "This meeting will last until the end of the negotiations. Our work is continuing under an open system which requires trips and consultations." He explained: "Sometimes this arouses suspicion, leading to comments which do not agree with the fact that at the beginning we met for a certain amount of time and now, since it is not necessary, our meetings are shorter." He added: "At the current level of negotiations, the points, the subjects are much briefer, more precise, more concrete. Therefore, it is just a matter of adjusting some problems in this regard."

In conclusion, General Etcheverry Boneo said: "Today we are going to meet with the president of the Chilean delegation and hold another brief session to continue studying our subjects of discussion." He also said: "I have no plans to travel to Buenos Aires at present, but I will do it when necessary. I may continue to work here until the end of the negotiations without the need to go to Buenos Aires."

The president of the Argentine delegation made these remarks to the "Revista Brava" program broadcast by Radio Belgrano.

'LA NACION' COUNTERS CHILEAN ENVOY'S REMARKS

PY241636Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1440 GMT 24 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Oct (TELAM)--The newspaper LA NACION in an editorial regarding the border conflict in the southern region, has stated that the concepts behind Chilean Ambassador Jose Miguel Barros' remarks in Washington obviously damage Argentine sovereignty.

Ambassador Barros, who spoke to reporters after Chilean officials met with representatives of international organizations in Washington, said that Chile would consider application of the Rio de Janeiro pact if the Chilean islands in the southern region were illegally occupied. He said: "The British crown decided that the Lennox, Picton and Nueva islands and the islands or islets south of the Beagle Channel are Chilean property."

The newspaper added: One of the reasons our country declared the arbitration award null was the abuse of power by the court, which decided on matters not under its jurisdiction, since Chile and Argentina had consulted it on the status of the area called the hammer.

In this regard, the newspaper stated that Barros, according to his own remarks, which have not been denied, recognized the abuse of power and clearly showed the position of the Chilean leaders at this time. "They intend, based on the award, to exercise jurisdiction over the litoral which extends from the Beagle Channel to Cape Horn--a point legally and historically considered to be the border between the two states and the division of the oceans." LA NACION added: "During the arbitration, it was established that a controversy existed between Argentina and Chile over the islands south of the hammer--that is, south of the area submitted to arbitration: Tehalten, Sesambre, Evout, and Barnevelt Islands etc, over which the court had no jurisdiction." The court, however, made a decision on the status of these islands in some passages of the award, the newspaper continued. The editorial stated: "Chile used the abuse of power by the court to issue a decree dated 14 July 1977 setting basic maritime lines, which not only converted into domestic waters an area used for international navigation, but also allowed extension of Chilean maritime jurisdiction up to 200 miles into the South Atlantic, an area which Argentina considers its own."

ITALIAN GROUP OFFERS DETAILS ON NUCLEAR ACCORD

PY260216Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2130 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Oct (NA)--Italy has proposed integrated cooperation in the nuclear field to Argentina. This would include a project for the construction of the Atucha 2 plant using the natural uranium technique.

The proposal was made by an official mission made up of representatives from Italian Government organizations involved in the field during negotiations held in Buenos Aires with high-ranking Argentine officials from the economy ministry and the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA]. These details were disclosed in a press conference held by the members of the Italian mission, who added that the atomic energy commissions from Argentina and Italy signed an accord to update the nuclear cooperation agreement which has been in force since 1965.

The Italian mission visiting Argentina is presided over by Guiseppe Ammssari, general director of energy sources of the Industry Ministry, and it is made up of Enzio Clementel, president of the Italian Nuclear Energy Commission; and Massimo Moretti, general director of the National Electric Company. Other officials from these Italian entities are accompanying the mission visiting Argentina, in addition to representatives from FINMECCANICA, which is considered to be the most important Italian engineering and manufacturing firm in the fields of nuclear and conventional energy.

Alternatively, during the press conference, the members of the Italian mission proceeded to explain details concerning the contacts they held in Argentina, which included meetings with Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz and CNEA President Adm Carlos Castro Madero in addition to other officials from the Energy Secretariat and the Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services Company [SEGBA].

As a result of these meetings, the Italian visitors noted that in view of the individual experience of the two countries, a proposal was made to Argentina for integrated nuclear development. They explained that this proposal also includes the establishment of industries which manufacture the equipment necessary to install nuclear plants in an integrated manner to avoid duplicating the manufacturing of the same product in the two countries but to complement each other instead. They added that this cooperation extends to the nuclear fuel field.

It was also noted that the proposal includes the "heavy water" aspect. In this regard it was explained that Argentina is the only one of the 35 countries that have signed cooperation agreements with Italy which has received a proposal of this nature from Italy. It was explained that this characterized the Italian proposal and differentiated it from accords established between other countries in this field. In this regard, it was noted that the FRG and Brazil "have a deal", while "the proposal between Italy and Argentina is beyond this."

The members of the Italian mission explained that during the negotiations the possibility of installing an experimental "cirene" reactor in Argentina was not discussed, but they added that the proposal does include the installation project of the Atucha 2 plant. This project includes the construction of a "candu"-type reactor, which is fed with natural uranium, like that operating at the Atucha 1 plant.

Regarding general aspects, the Italian representatives noted that nuclear energy cooperation between the two nations "may free them from their dependency on other countries for certain technological aspects." Queried by journalists, the Italian officials left open the possibility that this cooperation would also include the supply of uranium from Argentina to Italian nuclear plants. Italy must import all its fuel, but the Italian officials noted that at present Italy has 80 percent of this supply covered in accordance with the requirements provided in the energy program which was approved by congress. This is the reason the Italians gave great importance to the development of fast-breeder reactors, which allow the development of a faster process of uranium recovery.

After disclosing that the cooperation proposal also includes the development of zirconium metallurgy, it was noted that the Argentine Government may issue an answer to the Italian proposal during a new round of consultations scheduled for the first week in December.

Concluding, it was explained that in no way can the "London club" stop Italy from signing a cooperation agreement with Argentina, despite the fact that this country is not a signatory of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

ECONOMY MINISTER REPORTS INFLATION AT 100 PERCENT

PY2313412 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz stated yesterday that the present level of inflation is around 100 percent annually measured by the average during the last 4 months, and that consequently it is still too high to allow total freedom for contracting salaries between workers and enterpreneurs.

During a talk with newsmen, Martinez de Hoz added: If we again allow a wage inflation spiral that includes strong pressures for massive general increases which are immediately transferred to prices, the worker will lose more than he thinks he has gained.

He assured his listeners that the tendency is to allow more flexibility in the percentage for salary negotiations, but he made it clear that this does not necessarily mean that should we allow a flexibility of 100 percent, this is to be confused with completely free negotiations, because this 100 percent is one thing and complete freedom is a totally different thing.

Regarding inflation, he maintained that all sectors in the country have a large responsibility, including the state, which has been one of the major factors contributing to budget deficits.

Since taxes and foreign and domestic credits were not enough to cope with a very high level of expenditures, the state resorted to central bank money issuance to provide the treasury with funds and cover the budget deficit. He explained that during the last 2 and 1/2 years, the budget deficit decreased substantially in relation to the GDP--from 13.2 percent to 2 percent expected by the end of 1978.

He also stated that contrary to the last 20 years there will be no annual net issuance by the central bank, but indicated that the level of public expenditures continues to be very high.

He later stated that the real function of the state must be managing the country--in other words, that the best task for the government is good management of the country rather than engaging in industry, business or service supply in all fields, fields which the private sector is willing to undertake and which are better and more appropriately carried out by the private sector.

Referring again to inflation, he concluded by stating that the process for reducing inflation was motivated in Argentina by classic unemployment trends and the reduction of tariffs, since it has a very important industry representing 38 percent of the national GDP.

BRIEFS

NEW OIL DEPOSIT--Malargue (Mendoza), 25 Oct (TELAM)--Government Oil Deposits [YPF] is beginning to exploit a new deposit located in the Volcanes area, about 100 kilometers from this city. An oil pipeline connecting X1 and X2 to Route 40 was built in record time by YPF, and the wells are now entering into production. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1907 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY]

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES DELEGATION--A mission made up of officials of the Netherlands Antilles is arriving in Buenos Aires headed by Economic Affairs Minister (Moritz Darmonit). The aim of the mission is to increase trade between the Netherlands Antilles and Argentina. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY]

AIR FORCE MANEUVERS--The air force reported this afternoon that it is carrying out combat maneuvers in the northern region of the country. It said that these maneuvers are being carried out with the cooperation of troops from III Corps. The report adds that this is part of the annual training program. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1815 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY]

COMMUNIQUE WITH ARGENTINA CONFIRMS SOLIDARITY ON SEA ACCESS

PY260235Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0155 GMT 26 Oct 78 PY

[Text] San Jose de Pocitos (Bolivia), 25 Oct (TELAM)--The joint communique signed today by the presidents of Argentina and Bolivia ratifies the solidarity between the two nations with regard to the Bolivian claim for an outlet to the sea and with regard to the reaffirmation of Argentine sovereignty in the southwestern Atlantic and Malvinas Islands.

The president of Bolivia thanked the Argentine Government for its constant support in Bolivia's efforts to overcome the geographic isolation which has been hindering the economic and social development of the country for almost a century.

The Argentine head of state reasserted support for the just Bolivian hope of obtaining sovereign access to the Pacific and Argentina's decision to provide facilities for its link to the Atlantic through Argentine territory.

In addition, the joint communique, which consists of 17 points, establishes:

--To ratify the support of the two governments for the principles of sovereign equality among states, nonintervention in domestic affairs, the self-determination of peoples, territorial integrity and international cooperation for development as established in the United Nations Charter.

--To express their concern over the violence which threatens to spread throughout the world, endangering human coexistence. With respect to this, they agreed to ask international organizations to adopt measures designed to wipe out international terrorism.

--To encourage the establishment of a technological bank within the United Nations as an efficient means of strengthening the domestic technological capacity of developing nations.

--To emphasize the constructive spirit and the results reached during the United Nations conference on technical cooperation among developing nations held in Argentina, and to increase efforts for the implementation of the plan of action approved during the conference.

--To express their joint concern over the meager results obtained in negotiations presently underway in various international forums for the implementation of the principles established within the new international economic order.

--To emphasize their shared concern for the continuing increase in the differences which separate developing nations from industrialized nations, and the need for coordinated action to defend just and remunerative prices for exports.

--To reaffirm the integrationist vocations of the two countries and to conduct greater efforts to stimulate the operation of the Latin American Free Trade Association [LAFTA] through a meeting of the Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers.

--To support integrationist actions within the framework of the Cartagena Pact, to encourage the operation of the Joint Andean-Argentine Commission, and to express their satisfaction with the activities being carried out by the Latin American Economic System [LAES].

--To reassert their support for the development of the River Plate basin and, in this respect, to express their certainty that the tenth meeting of foreign ministers, to be held in Punta del Este, will find adequate formulas for the region's balanced development.

--To emphasize the importance of the short-range execution of the Padcaya-Bermejo Highway stretch and the advisibility of the development of the river basins common to both countries, including the Grande, Tarija, Bermejo and Pilcomayo River basins.

--To assert the importance of a master plan for the upper Bermejo River basin, facilitating Bolivia's access to the Atlantic Ocean.

--To announce the financing of the construction of the third and fourth stretches of the Santa Cruz-Trinidad Railroad by the Argentine Government.

--To convoke the third meeting of the Permanent Joint Commission for Coordination and the second meeting of the Commission for Geographical Integration for March 1979.

--To instruct both organizations to analyze on a priority basis the studies to allow navigation on the Bermejo River, the extension of the Oran-Bermejo Railroad, the microwave connection of Campo Duran-Tarija, and the agroindustrial development project for the Ballivian-Villamontes axis, among other things.

--To establish ad hoc commissions to analyze the recommendations of the two commissions on these issues, supervising the tasks assigned to the work groups.

SALE OF 400 MILLION CF OF GAS PER DAY TO BRAZIL APPROVED

PY260247Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0136 GMT 26 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 25 Oct (AFP)--A letter of intent for the sale of Bolivian gas to Brazil was signed here today by Bolivian Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Jaime Larrazabal and Brazilian Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki.

Although the text of the document will be published simultaneously in Brasilia and La Paz next Friday, it was revealed here tonight that the agreement provides for the sale of 400 million cubic feet of gas daily for 20 years. Initially it was expected that 240 million cubic feet of gas would be sold to Brazil daily.

The Bolivian minister, who left for his country tonight, held a meeting for more than 3 hours with his Brazilian counterpart, Shigeaki Ueki, and with Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira.

BRIEFS

POLISH ENVOY, PEREDA CONFER--After a protocol visit he made to President Pereda Asbun, Polish Ambassador Stanislaw Jarzabek stated that trade and diplomatic relations between the two countries had reached a new high during the past 2 years. The main topic discussed with the president was that of mutual relations. He indicated that Poland is interested in selling mining equipment and machinery to Bolivia, including technology. He reported that the trade balance between the two countries favors Bolivia by $15 million. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Oct 78 PY]

BOLIVIA-PERU BORDER INCIDENT--According to Foreign Minister Ricardo Anaya, a border incident which occurred on 9 October in an area called (Solpedra), which borders on Peru and Brazil, has been solved through direct bilateral negotiations between the Peruvian and Bolivian foreign ministries. According to reports, Peruvian military troops entered Bolivian territory without apparent reason. Eight of the Peruvians were arrested, but the incident was not violent. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 24 Oct 78 PY]

AGREEMENT WITH U.S. ON TEXTILE IMPORT SURCHARGES

PY251501Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Oct 78 p 34 PY

[Excerpts] Brazilian Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen and U.S. Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal have practically [as published] reached an agreement on the surcharges levied by the United States on Brazilian textile products. This agreement was reached last month in Washington when Simonsen participated in the general meetings of the IMF and the IBRD. Upon his return to Brazil, Simonsen revealed nothing, but it was unofficially reported that Simonsen and Blumenthal had agreed on a formula, probably a small surcharge to satisfy U.S. industry. This formula will be announced during the visit which U.S. Assistant Treasury Secretary Fred Bergsten will make to Brazil on 7 November.

U.S. sales of Brazilian textiles within the sector being investigated by the U.S. Treasury Department--that is: cotton, wool, synthetic fiber and manufactured clothes--will barely reach $100 million this year, and the levying of a surcharge will not harm the exporters too much, especially if this surcharge is low, as Brazilian officials expect. The finance minister believes the real harm is caused by uneasiness among exporters, which could have a negative influence on plans to expand production in spite of the possibility of diversifying markets--and such diversification is not easy in the case of textile products.

ANGRA REACTORS CALLED 'TECHNOLOGICAL JUNK'

PY231725Y Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 23 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Brazil has bought old technological junk, said Professor (Mario Seinberg) regarding the nuclear reactors adopted for the Angra nuclear plants. Professor (Seinberg), who teaches celestial mechanics at Sao Paulo University, believes the only solution is to change the reactors.

FRG TECHNOLOGY OFFICIAL ARRIVING FOR TALKS

PY251650Y Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Text] A leading negotiator of the nuclear agreement arrives to Brasilia today. Hans-Hilger Haunschild, FRG Research and Technology Ministry state secretary, is heading the FRG delegation to participate in the eighth FRG-Brazilian Scientific and Technological Joint Cooperation Commission meeting. Itamaraty has announced that this is a routine meeting.

CONDITIONS MADE TO FRG FOR WAGNER EXTRADITION

PY250301Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiva in Portuguese 0200 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia--The Brazilian Government will grant the extradition of Nazi Frank Wagner to West Germany if evidence is presented that he was really sentenced in that country for the crimes of exterminating Jews in the camps of Sobidor and Treblinka. On receiving the appropriate not from Itamaraty, the FRG Government will have 45 days to present the appropriate proof.

MISSION TO NIGERIA TO LEAVE NEXT WEEK

PY252308Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1958 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 25 Oct (AFP)--It was reported here today that a Brazilian diplomatic delegation will leave next week for Lagos to negotiate several agreements on cooperation with Nigeria.

The delegation will be headed by Marcos Azambuja, chief of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's department for Asia, Africa and Oceania, and his visit might be a preparation for the next visit to be made by Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira.

Nigeria is Brazil's first trade partner in black Africa, a region which has been for several years the objective of the Brazilian trade and diplomatic offensive.

FIGUEIREDO WILLING TO ORDER POLITICAL AMNESTY

FY231433Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1909 GMT 21 Oct 78 FY

[Text] Porto Alegre, 21 Oct (AFP)--Brazilian President-Elect Joao Batista Figueiredo today revealed that he is willing to order a political amnesty when he assumes the presidency. The president-elect made this statement during a meeting with leaders of the pro-government ARENA party in Caxias do Sul, about 300 km from Porto Alegre. General Figueiredo declared: The amnesty must be applied at the appropriate time, but it will not include those who, for political or ideological motives, want to destroy our society and are able to do it.

The future president praised the political reforms approved by the National Congress and said that his government will be a government of conciliation so that all Brazilians may build the country they all hope for without hate.

NO CANDIDATE TO BE NOMINATED TO RIGHTS GROUP

FY251524Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1455 GMT 25 Oct 78 FY

[Text] Brasilia, 25 Oct (AFP)--It was reported here today that Brazil did not propose any candidates for the OAS Human Rights Commission [IHRC] because the members of this organization do not represent their governments.

This information was provided by Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira when he explained why the Brazilian Government did not propose any candidates for the IHRC, a position held by lawyer Carlos Dunshee de Abranches.

Azeredo da Silveira believes that proposing a candidate is not justified when they are not subordinated to their respective governments.

The foreign minister added that the members of the IHRC are elected as experts and not as representatives of their countries. The Brazilian foreign minister said, however, that if it were interested, his government could propose a candidate.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA REGARDING TWO ITAIPU TURBINES

FY211904Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1449 GMT 21 Oct 78 FY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 21 Oct (AFP)--Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira announced that Argentina and Brazil are negotiating the installation of two turbines of 700 MW each in the Brazilian-Paraguayan Itaipu hydroelectric plant. The Brazilian foreign minister made this announcement during a brief dialog with reporters who came to Foz do Iguacu, on the Brazilian-Paraguayan border, to attend the operation in which the waters of the Parana River were diverted to permit the construction of the Itaipu dam. During the announcement, Minister Da Silveira emphasized that a categorical answer on these negotiations has not yet been received, but added that at any rate Itaipu will function with 18 or 20 turbines. During the brief meeting, Da Silveira referred to the meeting held with the Argentine ambassador to Brazil, Oscar Camillion, on 17 October, but did not give any major details on this meeting.

According to press reports, Camillion informed the Brazilian foreign minister about the results of a meeting held by his country's military junta regarding the number of turbines to be installed in the Brazilian-Paraguayan dam. According to Da Silveira, although there are disagreements on the number of turbines, the signing of an agreement which will harmonize the Itaipu project with the Argentine-Paraguayan Corpus dam project, which will be built downriver from Itaipu, will be signed in the near future. The Itaipu dam will begin full operation in 1988 and will have a potential of 12,600 MW.

BRIEFS

PETROBRAS DISCOVERS NEW DEPOSIT--PETROBRAS has decided to begin operation at the deposits discovered in the Ceara area, which now has three wells. Recent tests confirmed the existence of oil deposits first discovered in January and which are expected to yield 1,742 barrels daily. The new deposit is located 48 km off Paracuru coast and 80 km from Fortaleza, in waters which are 45 m deep. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 25 Oct 78 p 16 PY]

IAEA INSPECTORS--(Martinez Garcia) has already arrived in Brazil and (Van Frenzer) will arrive the day after tomorrow. They are inspectors for the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] who will check on compliance with safeguard agreements regarding the Brazilian nuclear program. [Text] [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Oct 78 PY]

JAPANESE FINANCING FOR TUBARAO--Tokyo--The Brazilian industry and commerce minister, the presidents of Tubarao and Minas Gerais Steel Company [ACOMINAS], the Brazilian ambassador in Tokyo and the president of the Nippon Usiminas Company, yesterday signed two agreements for the financing of the Tubarao project and another for ACOMINAS. The financing granted for Tubarao, totaling $700 million, is the largest ever granted by a consortium consisting exclusively of Japanese banks. The financing contract for ACOMINAS totals $71 million. The Tubarao loan will be granted in three parts and payment will be made in 12 years, after the receipt of each part. The final portion will be received in September 1980. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Oct 78 p 20 PY]

SALARY INCREASE--Rio de Janeiro, 24 Oct (TELAM-EFE)--In an action without precedent since the 1964 military coup, an assembly of owners and 250,000 metallurgical workers in Rio de Janeiro State has decided on a 49-percent salary increase. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1424 GMT 24 Oct 78 PY]

SAO PAULO DEMONSTRATION PROHIBITED--Sao Paulo Governor Paulo Egydio gave a laconic and categoric "no" in response to journalists' questions as to whether he will allow the demonstration against the cost of living scheduled for next Sunday, when the women of several Sao Paulo neighborhoods plan to go through the streets carrying empty pans. The prohibition was confirmed by State Security Secretary Col (Enio Viegas). [Text] [Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 24 Oct 78 PY]

XAVANTE PRODUCTION TO END--The Brazilian Aeronautics Company [EMBRAER] will suspend production of the military versions of "Xavante" as soon as the planes now under production are delivered. To replace this plane EMBRAER will produce the Turboprop EMB-312 for aerobatics training. [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1545 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO SIERRA LEONE--President Geisel has appointed Octabio Rainho da Silva Neves to serve concurrently as Brazilian ambassador to the Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Oct 78 PY]

PINOCHET SAYS BORDER AGREEMENT 'MUST BE REACHED'

PY251800Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Text] During a meeting with reporters at breakfast, President Augusto Pinochet said that he is optimistic and convinced that an agreement must be reached with Argentina regarding the southern maritime problem. During the meeting with reporters at Government House President Pinochet discussed the Chilean-Argentine situation.

[Begin Pinochet recording] I know you are interested in this, because there are many rumors going around. I am speaking from the Chilean side: I am not going to get involved on the other side. Here in Chile we are living a normal life. [words indistinct] a commission is studying the problems. The members are currently meeting, they are waiting for some information [words indistinct].

Here in Chile there is no aggressive attitude or any attitude different from that of previous years. The army is going through its regular training. Right now the soldiers are training [Words indistinct]. Normally units go on training on 15 October for approximately 30 to 45 days or up to 2 months, depending on the training. If there is good weather, training normally lasts 2 months, the field training. There has been no mobilization here. There has been talk that troops are being mobilized. What mobilization are people talking about? [end recording]

Pinochet added that all the rumors about the armed forces are false and without basis. He also indicated that it was said that negotiations were broken off, but emphasized that sometimes the negotiations were stopped to reorganize them or reorient them. Therefore the idea that negotiations were broken off is false.

He said that yesterday a rumor was circulated that negotiations had been broken off with Argentina. This was denied.

Pinochet said: I believe that hidden manipulators are trying to provoke problems. It has been said that we are disposed to give some islands. What islands? [words indistinct] the islands were occupied. He said: No one has occupied the islands, these are false rumors, possibly the result of interpretations or speculation. We are at the end of the negotiations, therefore discussion of the problems is slower, but the meetings are held more often.

The president was asked if Chile is willing to extend the deadline. The president categorically said no, that it would not benefit Argentina or Chile to extend the deadline, unless there were other reasons.

He was also asked if conversations were held through special delegates during the last week. He answered that the Puerto Montt Act must be fulfilled--that is that commission No 2 must end its negotiations and submit its proposals to the president. He said that at this time commission No 2 is in charge, but others can come to talk as individuals, as high-ranking officers, in order to reorient the negotiations. [words indistinct].

The reporters wanted to know if President Pinochet is optimistic about the outcome. The president said that he is convinced that to go to war is madness, is self-destruction, is suicide, not only for Chile, but also for Argentina. He said this war would be the costliest for any country in South America.

Reporters insisted on an expanded answer, and the chief of state said that he is more optimistic than last February when the negotiations began. He said: I am optimistic and convinced that an agreement must be reached. A war would be an error; we cannot think of it. Only the [word indistinct] pay the consequences of war.

He was asked if he could calm the population. He said: I know the Chilean people, if I tell them not to be concerned with this problem, they will say that I am only saying that because there is a problem. Instead of calming them, this would only create an environment of (?anxiety) and anguish. This makes me think that the best thing to do is to say nothing and merely deny rumors.

He was also asked whether in his opinion the two sides should compromise during a dialog He reiterated that in any dialog, both sides must compromise. Otherwise no conversation could be held. But he warned that the interesting thing is what to compromise on.

He then noted that nations cannot have lines of separation, that there are zones of separation and zones of contact, but not lines. To be specific, he said, the problem we have to study is the maritime problem. The islands have always been ours. Progress has been made on other topics. Progress has been made on the continental shelf and other areas. The problem is the delimitation.

Reporters asked the president what would happen if an agreement is not reached by 2 November. The president said that there are many solutions. One is to resort to the international court at The Hague. There may be other legal solutions, but a war must be rejected.

He then reiterated that Chile is not interested in entering the Atlantic. He emphasized that even the Pacific has not entered its real maturity yet and that Chileans should look toward the Pacific. We are not interested in the other side.

Pinochet also labeled as malicious rumors the report released by an international news agency that Chile was willing to give up Barnevelt and Evout islands. Asked if conversations are being held about the islands, he answered that conversations are being held about everything--the islands, the islets, the sea, the continental shelf, and so forth.

Later in the meeting, the chief of state was asked about remarks made yesterday to the national and international press by retired Gen Manuel Contreras, and why Contreras did not make a statement before.

Pinochet said that the general could not make a statement earlier without asking permission from his superiors. But as of 22 September, General Contreras was no longer under military jurisdiction. Had he been on active duty, he would have to be interrogated by the (?military).

Asked if General Contreras' request to continue in the army for 6 more months was denied, Pinochet said that first of all this law did not apply to those involved in this problem at the time. He said: If I issue a law to name a field marshal it is not to appoint myself field marshal. This law could not be applied to General Contreras. The request he submitted did not get to me. It was rejected at a lower level.

In conclusion he was asked if the remarks made by General Contreras are damaging relations between Chile and the United States because Contreras named Ambassador Landau. The president said that General Contreras spoke on his own, and that he is no longer a general. He said that it would have been different if the remark had been made by a government official, that this remark only reflects General Contreras' opinion.

Break With Argentina Denied

PY251217Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Gen Enrique Valdez, deputy minister of foreign relations, has said that rumors of the breaking of relations with Argentina are absolutely false. Negotiations being carried out are proof that the two countries want to solve their problems peacefully.

Asked about the alleged break, he said that relations are absolutely normal, as the negotiations being carried out by commission No 2 prove. He reiterated that the negotiations are normal and again denied an allegation that Argentina had proposed to negotiate the status of Barnevelt and Evout islands, which belong to Chile and are south of the Beagle Channel.

Every Effort Being Made

PY260251Y Santiago Chile Radio Agricultura Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Chilean Navy Commander Jose Toribio Merino Castro stated this afternoon that the Chilean Government is doing everything in its power to solve the dispute with Argentina without having to use extreme measures. Admiral Merino made this statement moments after his arrival in Santiago from his 10-day tour through the southern region of the country, which included a detailed tour of the Beagle area. Merino said: I come from that area. (?I have seen) what Chileans are experiencing there and I understand how much they are suffering from this political uncertainty. [Words indistinct]. The Chilean Government is doing the impossible to solve the situation without using the extreme measures which the Argentines want to use.

Admiral Merino added: We are not going to let them have their way because we have international law on our side, which enables countries to (?use peaceful) means and avoid becoming a jungle which is ruled by the most powerful. He said: Chile [words indistinct] is a proud and courageous nation and will know how to act in any circumstances.

Argentine Position, Blackout Viewed

PY260256Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2252 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 25 Oct (AFP)--The Chilean press today published comments expressing concern, uneasiness and even irony regarding the Chilean-Argentine border conflict situation.

The afternoon paper LA SEGUNDA today criticized in its editorial the official Argentine position, according to which the negotiations that will end on Thursday, 2 November, are the only peaceful means of solving the conflict over the Beagle Channel. The afternoon paper added that the Argentines are again creating roadblocks and are overlooking the international law which provides the means for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

In its front page report on the blackout drills in Argentina on Tuesday night, the morning paper EL MERCURIO published a banner headline saying: The War Is Over, Let There Be Light Again.

The newspaper LA TERCERA DE LA HORA also recalled the verses of the famous "Ballad for a Madman" ["Balada Para Un Loco"] by Astor Piazzola and published this headline: The Little Lights of Buenos Aires...Went Off for an Hour.

QUESTIONING OF CONTRERAS ENDS; DECISION DUE

PY260242Y Santiago Chile Radio Agricultura Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Text] According to Supreme Court Chief Judge Israel Borquez, the questioning concerning the extradition requested by the U.S. Justice Department has ended. Judge Borquez has decided to end this stage of the extradition proceedings with the completion of the questioning of General Contreras. He is now getting ready to draw up his decision unless any additional questioning or some other similar proceeding become necessary.

Lawyer Alfredo Etcheberry who represents the U.S. stated that he will wait for a few more days until he is informed of the official [word indistinct] of the questioning to submit some requests to the court.

Ex-DINA Chief's Remarks

PY232032Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1804 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 25 Oct (AFP)--It was reported here today that Gen Manuel Contreras, former chief of the Chilean secret police, the National Intelligence Directorate [DINA], had tried to cleanse his image in the Letelier case and in other presumed political crimes.

Any activity for the good of the fatherland is clean, Contreras said in his first public remarks since he was implicated in the murder of former Chilean Socialist Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier in Washington 2 years ago.

Contreras charged that U.S. ambassador to Chile, George Walter Landau, was involved in the Letelier case, terming him "our former ally."

"I am not the instigator of that crime," he stated on facing reporters for the first time at the court.

He was questioned for several hours by the president of the Supreme Court, Israel Borquez, who must make a decision in the first instance as to whether Contreras' extradition to the United States should proceed or not. Contreras was less categorical regarding the actual participation of DINA agents in the murder, stating: "I do not think they were my officers. It was not they."

He added: "This question should be put to other persons, especially to someone who was our ally before, such as the current ambassador to Chile, Landau."

In Chilean judicial circles, these remarks were interpreted today as a direct attack on the U.S. ambassador and an indirect attack on the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Nevertheless, the same consulted sources stated that these chrages by Contreras apparently seek to counter the numerous pieces of evidence presented here by the U.S. Justice Department in the document in which the extradition is requested.

Contreras' remarks to the press marked his first appearance in public, and through them he also replied to other charges made against DINA recently, such as murders, tortures and the issue of the missing persons, an issue the Catholic Church has raised.

According to his revelation, DINA's slogan was: "We struggle in darkness so that all Chileans may live under the sun." The high-ranking retired officer, who now appears as the accused, expressed pride in the missions carried out, "because it was a matter of serving the army and the government simultaneously."

Contreras attributed DINA's black history to the Marxists, "who cannot forgive losing a war, and we were the winners in this war," he concluded.

FURTHER DETAILS OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION REPORTED

PY191746Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 19 Oct 78 PY

[Text] According to the new draft constitution, the presidential term will last 8 years. The complete draft of the new constitution was submitted to President Pinochet yesterday.

The draft includes the right to strike but excludes from this right government and municipality officials as well as persons working in public utilities or enterprises whose paralysis would cause serious damage to the nation's economy, health, provisions for the population, or national security.

The complete draft consists of 98 pages, containing 123 specific articles and 11 [as heard] temporary articles included in 14 chapters. The draft retains the position of the previous constitution, that members of the armed forces do not have the right to vote, and extends this restriction to all military personnel of the national security forces. Previously, officers were allowed to vote.

The constitutional draft, which will be submitted to a plebiscite, prohibits all terrorist activity, it being considered contrary to man's natural rights. The draft adds that those crimes defined by the law as being terrorist will always be judged by military courts and parole [liberad provisional], amnesty, pardons and the right to asylum will not be valid. Those responsible for such crimes will be disqualified for public office, whether gained through elections or not, for a period of 10 years--without detriment to disqualifications established by the penal code.

The draft states that the family is the basic unit of society and the government will protect it and contribute to its strengthening. It adds that sovereignty essentially resides in the nation and its exercise is carried out by the people through plebiscites and elections, and through the authorities established by the constitution. No sector of the population or individual can claim this power for himself.

The draft also establishes that any action carried out by a single person or a group aimed at propagating doctrines threatening the family, promoting violence or the theory of a totalitarian society, state or judicial order or a theory based on the class struggle is illegal and contrary to the nation's institutional order. It adds that those organizations, movements or political parties which, because of their objectives or the activity of their supporters, aim to achieve these objectives are unconstitutional.

Regarding loss of Chilean nationality, the constitutional draft notes that citizenship may be revoked by supreme decree in case of aiding Chilean enemies or their allies during an international war. Chilean nationality is also lost through the issuance of a verdict of guilty for crimes against the dignity of the fatherland or against essential and permanent interests of the government which are included in the law and approved by a competent quorum.

The paragraph referring to voting establishes that elections and plebiscites which are not specifically provided for in this constitution cannot be convoked. The chapter regarding constitutional rights and duties establishes that the law protects the life of a human being who is yet to be born. The death penalty can only be ordered for a crime which is covered by a law properly approved through a qualified quorum. The draft also prohibits enforcement of any illegal physical or psychological punishment.

FAC PLANE FIRES ON U.S. MARIHUANA LADEN PLANE

PA251700Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Santa Marta--In the past few hours a Colombian Air Force [FAC] plane machine-gunned a U.S. plane carrying marihuana from La Guajira. So far there is no report on the outcome of the military action.

According to a FAC spokesman, the operation took place in the [word indistinct] area, which is on the route used by U.S. planes that transport "grass" from Colombia to the states of Florida and Miami [as heard].

The military communique made available to this radio station says that a FAC bomber [as heard] ordered the pirate plane to land. However, the pirate plane did not obey and was fired upon by the FAC plane. The outcome of this action is unknown.

This is the first direct FAC intervention against international drug traffickers since the government implemented a special statute 3 weeks ago. The new statute will officially go into effect on 1 November.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR BARQUERO MONTIEL RECALLED

PA251723Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Consul Antonio (Sanabia) has been put in charge of Nicaragua's Embassy in Colombia. Diplomatic sources have said that Ambassador William Barquero Montiel has reportedly been recalled by the government of General Somoza. The embassy building was surrendered on Tuesday. [sentence as heard] The whereabouts of Ambassador Montiel had not yet been fully established on Wednesday. The only Nicaraguan diplomatic official remaining in this country is Consul Antonio (Sanabia).

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON LAW OF THE SEA

PA260338Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas today urged the developing countries to reinforce their naval power and to vigorously confront the powerful multinational enterprises which are taking away their maritime wealth. He said that the time has come for the poor countries to unite in order to defend their own interests.

Upon closing the workshops of the friends of the sea this morning at the military club, the Colombian foreign minister said that the governments of Third World countries must reinforce their naval powers and their strength in order to prevent the Law of the Sea being drafted at the United Nations from being blocked. Uribe called for joint work in order to insure in every way that some of the conquests essential for the future of nations will be preserved at the inter-American level. He said that a special commission has been created in Colombia to draft a statute on exploitation of maritime resources.

Colombia is afraid that UN negotiations will be hindered in order to frustrate the formulation of a Law of the Sea that will benefit developing countries, Foreign Minister Diego Uribe said. He said that Colombia is concerned that the UN conference is wavering and that some of the achievements which we regarded as extremely firm are today being threatened by the voice of the superpowers which want to disregard the moratorium of one of the good achievements of the United Nations. [sentence as heard] The foreign minister added that this threat of violation of the moratorium and the systematic obstruction of the negotiations is going to force us to make a greater effort to simulate international awareness so that the treaty that is so slowly being drafted will not be frustrated.

CHIRIQUI CATTLEMEN REJECT CUBAN ASSISTANCE

PA250432Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--An association of cattlemen of the western Panamanian province of Chiriqui has rejected the assistance which a group of Cuban specialists was to give them regarding cattle. The cattlemen claimed that the Cubans are not familiar with the problems of the region.

The Ministry of Agricultural Development had solicited the Cuban Government's cooperation, asking that specialists be provided to give advice to the Panamanian cattlemen on cattle raising matters in view of the difficult situation being experienced by them, particularly as evidenced by the deficit in cattle production.

Nevertheless, the Chiriqui cattlemen flatly rejected the Cubans' good-will offer without stating any political reasons for their decision.

SOVIET TIES SAID TO IMPAIR CUBAN NONALINED LEADERSHIP

PA251430Y Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 25 Oct p 4 PA

[Editorial: "'Neutral' Havana"]

[Text] By their own choice the "non-aligned" or "Third World" countries have chosen Cuba as their host for the 1979 meeting. If that doesn't stick in the craw of at least some of them, the definition of non-alignment has taken a new twist.

Cuba couldn't be more a province of Russia if were contained with Soviet borders. When hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Cuban troops become casualties for the cause of Soviet expansionism in Africa, when Fidel Castro unleashes another tirade against the United States each time the Kremlin snorts; and as long as the Russians continue to underwrite the faltering Cuban economy to the extent of one million dollars a day--there is no way Cuba qualifies as an independent state.

But such are the hypocrisies of world affairs that Havana will be the gathering place of the next Third World summit. It could prove a fortuitious choice, at that. Some of the non-aligned countries are serious about their neutrality. As 1979 approaches, they could decide their calendars for the years are booked so solidly there simply isn't time for a trip to Havana.

POLITICAL INSTRUCTOR DESCRIBES VICTORIANO LORENZO BRIGADE

PA252206Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Statements by Milciades A. Ortiz, Jr, director of Radio Hogar's "Conciencia" program, during the "Conciencia" program--live]

[Text] For the people who have been calling in to ask for details about the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade and my role in it, I reiterate the following: I was the political instructor, the political trainer of the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade. There was also physical and military training. As one of the six group commanders, I performed tasks related to this position--tasks which entailed great responsibilities and for which neither yours truly nor the other five commanders led by Dr Jorge Aparicio received any pay or other benefits.

Some people joined the group as volunteers but failed to pass selections made on the basis of physical ability, personality and political ideas--meaning people who really wanted to go fight for a fraternal nation rather than kill other people.

Many people, the large majority [as heard]--one out of every five of the volunteers--were able to cross the border into Costa Rica enroute to Nicaragua. The remainder dropped out in the various selections, some of them voluntarily.

Some of the people who have returned to the capital already are spreading lies, falsehoods. They are saying, for instance, that the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade never crossed the border, and that is false. Several dozen people crossed the border and yesterday the international press confirmed that they were already in Nicaragua.

Some people who were opportunely removed for misbehavior or other reasons are now claiming that they deserve to be appointed [to jobs] under the emergency plan if they do not have a job or if they lost their job because they left without notice and without fulfilling the labor code requirements. They are claiming that they must be given a job--especially people who were in charge of this phase of training. Some of them have even threatened me because of this situation, for which I am not responsible. I am not responsible since as just another soldier I fulfilled the assigned missions risking my personal security, and even the security of my family, and job stability.

I say this so that the community will not be caught off guard by some people who wanted to participate in the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade for reasons other than the seriousness and idealism an activity of this type deserves. To go fight a dynastic regime such as the Somoza regime is a very noble and also very risky task.

ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF 1972 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MEETS

PA252305Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] The association of members of the 1972 Constitutent Assembly, made up of corregimiento representatives--including those who were reelected in Panama Province--has met in the district of Chorrera to continue installing provincial chapters of Constituent Assembly members in order to strengthen that organization. One of the objectives of the association is to support the revolutionary process, the new rulers and Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera as custodian of the process. The association also plans to make sure that the 1972 constitution remains in existence together with the reforms that may be approved and plans to decide whether to join the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

SANITATION WORKERS AGREE TO END STRIKE

PA251200Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0405 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] The trash collection service in Panama City and Colon will return to normal tomorrow, Wednesday, at 0500 when the Sanitation Department workers will return to work. An agreement was reached following negotiations which lasted until late tonight between the workers' negotiating commission and Jose Fierro, director of the National Water and Sanitation Institute. Present at the negotiations were the president and vice president of the republic, Aristides Royo and Ricardo de la Espriella.

The agreement which broke the deadlocked talks includes improved administration and other measures demanded by the majority of the Panama City and Colon trash collectors.

COSTA RICA

CARAZO SAYS GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES PEACE, TRANQUILLITY

PA260234Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Oct 78 PA

[Text] President Rodrigo Carazo has said that the government guarantees peace and tranquillity throughout the nation even if it has to resort to international organizations. The president made the statement in view of rumors that there is a threat of attack on Costa Rican territory by the Nicaraguan National Guard in December. President Carazo told newsmen that these are mere speculations.

SANDINIST COMMANDER COMMENTS ON FSLN ACTIVITIES

PA252212Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Statements by Sandinist Commander Plutarco Elias Hernandez--date and place not given; recorded]

[Excerpt] [Words indistinct] We have reports about an attack carried out by a small squadron, seven or eight men, against a National Guard post near Penas Blancas. These attacks are being carried out from within Nicaragua as part of the step-by-step harassment plan of the Sandinist National Liberation Front aimed at eroding the power of [words indistinct] the comrades who are joining the ranks of the front. This is all I can tell you.

[Words indistinct] military. Of course, the next offensive will be [words indistinct] three, four or five times larger than that of September. We believe that it is a matter of time and that we should work more seriously in this movement so that we can deal the blows needed by the Nicaraguan people to overthrow the dictatorship.

EL SALVADOR

TERRORISTS BOMB GUATEMALAN CONSULATE, KILL WATCHMAN

PA251438Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1408 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] A terrorist attack took place this morning at the Guatemalan Consulate in the city of of (?Chalchuapa), Santa Ana Department, located 80 km from San Salvador, in the western part of the country. Early this morning a powerful bomb exploded at the consulate causing considerable property damage and killing Manuel de Jesus Lopez, 23, a watchman who was in the vicinity.

The clandestine Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces, FPL, claimed credit for the attack, saying that it was staged in solidarity with the struggle being waged by the people of Guatemala.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS KILLING OF UNIVERSITY STUDENT

PA251715Y Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Carlos Toledo Vielman, public relations secretary of the presidency, has said that the central government is interested in fulfilling its commitment to peace for the Guatemalan people in order to avert further bloodshed.

For this reason, the government of the republic has condemned and repudiated the killing of university student Oliverio Castaneda de Leon, because it is clear that the objective is to create unrest in the country, Toledo said.

CUBAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR GEPLACEA MEETING

PA260328Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1945 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--Ricardo Cabrizas Ruiz, Cuban first vice minister of foreign trade, arrived in Guatemala today to participate in the ninth meeting of the Economic Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries [GEPLACEA]. Cabrizas Ruiz is the highest ranking Cuban official to visit Guatemala following Fidel Castro's rise to power.

The Guatemalan police immediately announced that security measures have been taken to protect the Cuban official, who has joined a delegation of Cuban sugar experts here for the GEPLACEA meeting. The meeting is being held this week at the El-Dorado-Americana Hotel in this capital.

PLANS TO SHIFT DEFENSE MINISTER DENIED

PA251716Y Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Newsman Carlos Toledo Vielman, public relations secretary of the presidency, has categorically denied that the government plans to appoint Defense Minister Gen Otto Spiegeler Noriega as Guatemalan ambassador to Argentina. The spokesman added that General Spiegeler continues performing the functions of defense minister and that, therefore, the report must be regarded as mere speculation.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT REITERATES NEUTRALITY IN NICARAGUAN EVENTS

PA251705Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1628 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran military government today reiterated its neutrality regarding events in Nicaragua, but announced that it will crush any attempt by natives or foreigners to organize operations here against Gen Anastasio Somoza's government. The statement is contained in a communique issued by the press secretariat clarifying the position toward the recent capture of several Sandinist guerrillas by the Honduran Army in the eastern part of the country.

In a simultaneous statement, Herman Allan Padgett, the press secretary of the military triumvirate, emphasized that the military government's position does not include a ban on demonstrations of solidarity with the Nicaraguan people by Honduran groups.

The official communique emphasizes the "firm determination to continue close vigilance on our borders in order to insure respect for the inviolability of our territory." The communique adds that any attempt by Nicaraguan armed forces to enter Honduran territory in pursuit of insurgents who oppose General Somoza's regime will also be vigorously repelled.

However, the Honduran University Students Federation, in a strongly worded communique, has stated that in the course of this week several members of the Nicaraguan National Guard have entered the national territory "staging a show of power for the benefit of the inhabitants of the eastern part of the country."

The students report that Nicaraguan officers Juan Ramon (?Acaza), Jose Maria Moncada and Captain Ruiza, who are assigned to the Jalapa command, frequently enter Honduran territory under the protection of the Honduran Army.

PALMA WELCOMES SALVADORAN PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS

PA251727Y San Pedro Sula EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Oct 78 p 4 PA

[Excerpt] Referring to the hopes for peace voiced by Salvadoran President Carlos Humberto Romero, Foreign Affairs Minister Roberto Palma Galvez said yesterday that "it is very pleasing to read his statements in the Honduran press."

Palma added that the negotiations between the two countries are proceeding at the pace set in the mediation agreement. "The process is proceeding normally and will continue at the beginning of next year," he said. Palma said that he did not know exactly when mediator Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero will visit Honduras and El Salvador, but noted that "the visit has been confirmed."

NICARAGUA

GROUP OF 12 LEAVES BROAD OPPOSITION FRONT

PA252231Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2030 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 25 Oct (AFP)--The so-called Group of 12 today left Nicaragua's Broad Opposition Front (FAO), it was officially announced. The "12" said that they do not agree "with the way in which the talks are being conducted with the international mediation commission" composed of the United States, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. The Group of 12 is a heterogeneous group which has the support of the Sandinists. It was also learned that the National Workers Central, one of the two Social Christian parties belonging to the opposition coalition, and the Socialist Party are also planning to leave the front.

Sergio Ramirez, spokesman for the Group of 12, said that it is opposed to having Bowdler, U.S. envoy and the personal delegate of President Jimmy Carter, in charge of mediation with sectors opposed to President Anastasio Somoza. However, it is rumored that the reason for the rift is much deeper. It was unofficially reported that a group is ready to hold talks with the (ruling) Nationalist Liberal Party even if Somoza stays in power until 1981, while others hold that no negotiation should be accepted until Somoza agrees to shorten his mandate.

The split within the FAO apparently occurred among groups traditionally opposed to Somoza, such as the Conservative Party, which is recognized by the government, the Democratic Liberation Union, and management associations and new groups such as the Group of 12, the Socialist Party and the National Labor Central. The split within the FAO caught the Nicaraguan people by surprise. It is expected that within the next few hours the front will release a communique explaining the new situation.

Takes Asylum in Mexican Embassy

PA260354Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0334 GMT 26 Oct 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 25 Oct (LATIN)--All members of the opposition Group of 12 who are in Nicaragua have taken asylum in the Mexican Embassy, the Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic announced tonight.

This action took place after the Group of 12 withdrew from the commission of the Broad Opposition Front [FAO]--which was holding talks with a mediation commission made up of representatives of the United States, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala--and announced their decision to break with the FAO.

Communique on Asylum

PA260433Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0345 GMT 26 Oct 78 PA

[Communique issued by the Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic on 25 October 1978--read by anncuncer]

[Text] The Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic hereby informs the Nicaraguan citizenry of the following:

Today the Foreign Ministry was informed by the distinguished Embassy of the United States of Mexico that at 1830 today Miguel de Escoto, Fernando Cardenal, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, Ricardo Coronel Kautz, Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro, Ernesto Castillo Martinez and Emilio Baltodano Pallais showed up at the diplomatic mission to ask for diplomatic asylum. The asylum of these people, all active members of the so-called Group of 12, without any arrest warrant having been issued against them or without their having been harassed or obstructed in their political activities while the friendly cooperation commission is performing its conciliatory function, connotes an attitude which may be an indication of subversive actions, which we denounce from now. [Signed] Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic

COURT PROCEDURES UNDER MARTIAL LAW DELINEATED

PA251235Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0345 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[23 October letter from Guillermo Noguera Z., National Guard commander and defense minister, to the gazette director--read by announcer]

[Text] Requesting immediate publication in the gazette, I hereby verbally transcribe the agreement No 61-G:

Division Gen Don Anastasio Somoza Debayle, the president of the republic and supreme chief of the armed forces, in accordance with Decree No 58 of 12 October 1978 issued by the president of the republic and the Council of Ministers, in consideration of the fact that: Since the guarantees established in Article 49N have been suspended in keeping with Article 7 of the martial law, military courts will handle crimes against the state's internal and external security and public order.

According to Article 15 of the martial law, civilian authorities will continue to perform their functions in all matters related to their powers, but as far as public order is concerned they will be limited to powers which the military authority permits or assigns to them. Orders that criminal court judges will have jurisdiction over crimes in which goods, whether insured or not [asegurados o no], are involved and after due investigation are found to be connected with crimes affecting public order. In any event, they will provide directly the reports which military authorities require of them and will diligently provide reports on all that they find out regarding public order.

Let this be communicated for publication and compliance.

Managua, National District, 21 October 1978.
[Signed] A. Somoza D., National Guard division general, president of the republic and supreme chief of the armed forces
[Signed] Guillermo Noguera Z., National Guard major general, defense minister

PEACE MOVEMENT CONDEMNS U.S. DECISION ON NEUTRON BOMB

FL260039Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Oct 78 FL

[Text] In Washington, U.S. President Jimmy Carter today signed the law authorizing the production of essential elements of the neutron bomb, according to an AFP dispatch. In connection with this decision the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples has released in Havana the following declaration.

The production of that type of nose cone for the weapon that threatens the most essential of all rights, the right to life, once more confirms the falsehood of a government which claims to be the champion of human rights. This new weapon, which has been denounced and condemned by all peoples in the world for its monstrous characteristics, has been called a clean weapon by imperialism's cynicism. Before such a statement, the peoples of the world angrily raise their voices and fists to condemn the sinister aims of the Yankee and NATO warmongering circles. Those peace-loving peoples and those which are still struggling for independence and the exercise of their sovereignty have said no to the neutron bomb. In voicing the feelings of the Cuban people, the Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples denounces this new imperialist provocation which threatens the security, well-being and just and stable peace which mankind desires.

UN DELEGATE JUSTIFIES INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA

FL251052Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 Oct 78 FL

[Text] At the UN social, humanitarian and cultural affairs committee, Cuba has rejected the distorted reports on its internationalist assistance to Africa. Our country's delegate to that committee, Maria de los Angeles Florez Prida, pointed out that it is totally unacceptable that Cuba be included in reports of rivalries on the African Continent. And she added: Cuba is not in Africa as a rival to any capitalist country but the imperialist powers have been and want to be in Africa to prevent the real independence of the people and subject them to neocolonialism.

SOVIET DIPLOMAT HAILS JOINT SPACE FLIGHTS

FL251047Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 Oct 78 FL

[Text] USSR Charge d'Affaires in Cuba Marlen Manasov has reiterated the announcement that Cubans and Russians will soon make a joint space flight. Manasov was inaugurating the exposition "Together on Earth, Together in the Cosmos," organized by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with Peoples and several socialist countries. Representatives of the embassies of the GDR, Bulgaria, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and Czechoslovakia presided over the inauguration ceremony of the exhibit opened in honor of the 11th anniversary of the inter-Cosmos program and 61st anniversary of the great October revolution.

Joint flights, Manasov said, represent new evidence that the cosmos is the arena of world cooperation among representatives of different nations. They serve the cause of peace and progress of mankind. The Soviet diplomat recalled that a decision was approved in 1976 for citizens of socialist countries, including Cuba, to participate in space flights jointly with the USSR. He described this as a demonstration of the power of socialist internationalism.

POPULATION, HOUSING CENSUS DECREED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

FL251040Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 Oct 78 FL

[Text] The Council of Ministers executive committee has approved Decree 30, which stipulates that a population and housing census will be conducted throughout the national territory in 1981. The decree orders that preparatory work be started this year. The State Committee for Statistics will be responsible for the preparation, execution, processing and publication of the census for which it will have the cooperation of agencies of the central state administration and local people's government organs.

GUYANESE AMBASSADOR CAMPBELL PRAISES AID

FL251500Y Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 15 Oct 78 p 1 FL

[Excerpts] Guyana's Ambassador to Cuba, Cde Frank Campbell has hailed the ties of friendship between Guyana and Cuba as an example to the rest of the developing world.

Cde Campbell made this comment while proposing a toast at a midday reception he hosted in honour of the Cuban Medical Brigade which has returned home after a 15-month programme in Guyana.

Addressing members of the Cuban Internationalist Medical Brigade, Cde Campbell noted that members of the brigade had always rendered service consistent with the needs of the people and had served to strengthen the links between their country and the countries in which they served.

The Guyanese ambassador also paid tribute to Cuban dance instructor, Professor Armando Lastra, who is currently serving as director of the National School of Dance in Guyana, and he hailed Cuba-Guyana collaboration in fisheries, economic, technical, scientific, educational and cultural areas as well as in the field of politics.

CPSU MAGAZINE 'KOMMUNIST' INTERVIEWS FIDEL CASTRO

FL241116Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT Oct 78 FL

[Text] The magazine KOMMUNIST, organ of the CPSU Central Committee, has published in its latest issue an interview with PCC Central Committee First Secretary Fidel Castro. The maximum leader of the PCC talked with KOMMUNIST special correspondent Oleg Darusenkov on the Cuban revolution and various aspects of the revolutionary process in our country. Castro also explained how he had adopted his communist views.

KOMSOMOL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED AT KARL MARX THEATER

FL241209Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 24 Oct 78 FL

[Text] The 60th anniversary of the USSR Leninist KOMSOMOL was commemorated last night with a ceremony at the Karl Marx Theater. Luis Orlando Dominguez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the Union of Young Communists (UJC), and Marlen Manasov, charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Cuba, spoke at the ceremony. Both speakers underscored the magnificent work done by the vanguard organization of Soviet youth and the ties of brotherhood that bind Soviet and Cuban youths. PCC Politburo members Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura presided over the ceremony.

BARBADOS

ISRAEL PLANS TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH NATION

PA250157Y Paris AFP in English 0023 GMT 25 Oct 78 PA

[Text] Bridgetown, 24 Oct (AFP)--Israel has plans to intensify and expand its economic and other relationships with Barbados, Moshe Melamed, Israel's new non-resident ambassador to this Caribbean island, said today. He presented his credentials yesterday to Governor-General Sir Deighton Ward. Mr Melamed also said that this island state was among Israel's closest friends in the Western Hemisphere.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

DR BALAGUER RECOVERING FROM CATARACT SURGERY

FL251140Y Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Oct 78 FL

[Excerpt] Former President Dr Joaquin Balaguer is not suffering from glaucoma, as has been reported repeatedly. Instead, he has cataracts. Juan Rafael Peralta Perez, president of the Senate and a top leader of the Reformist Party, has provided this information. The Reformist legislator last week went to the United States, where he met with his party leader. According to Peralta Perez, Dr Balaguer is recovering satisfactorily in New York City. The senator from Santiago Rodriguez Province reported that the former Dominican president has undergone surgery for cataracts in one of his eyes and that he will later undergo a second operation on the other eye. The surgery is done in Boston and Peralta Perez added that Dr Balaguer possibly will return to this country in 1 and 1/2 months.

JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT MINISTER SAYS FARM PRODUCTION INCREASED

FL241754Y Kingston Domestic Service in English 1630 GMT 24 Oct 78 FL

[Text] The minister of state for information, Arnold Bertram, said farmers had undoubtedly responded positively to the call for increased production. But he feels that much needs to be done in the area of food storage and preservation. Mr Bertram said if agricultural production was to have a full impact on a country it had to be accompanied by a good agricultural-technological policy. He was speaking this morning at the Sheraton Hotel at the opening of a 2-day seminar on national science and technological information policy for Jamaica. The workshop is being sponsored by the National Council on Libraries, Archives and Documentation Services. According to Mr Bertram, Jamaicans needed to understand more fully the importance of science and technology in national development and the need to invest more in these areas. Also speaking at this morning's seminar was the director of the Scientific Research Council, Dr Arnaldo Ventura. He said the important question to be answered now was not whether science and technology were indispensible, but rather when would Jamaica take them seriously enough to allocate appropriate resources for technological development.

URUGUAY

CANCELLATION OF REMAINING DEBT WITH IMF ANNOUNCED

PY251924Y Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Oct 78 PY

[Excerpt] Uruguay will cancel its debt with the IMF today. To do this, Uruguay will buy back $72,704,003 worth of special drawing rights. The country had been indebted to the IMF for the last 16 years.